METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING
AN INSTANT MESSAGE NOTIFICATION

Abstract of the Disclosure

An instant messaging client application is provided that receives requests to

5   initiate instant messaging conversations and, in response to the requests, displays a

notification window. The notification window includes information that may allow a

user to decide whether or not the user would like to participate in the instant messaging

conversation. The notification window is displayed gradually and removed gradually.

The notification window contains an indication that another instant messaging user

10   would like to initiate an instant messaging conversation and may include an

identification of the remote user. The notification window also contains a description of

the topic for the requested instant messaging conversation. The instant messaging client

application may also display a notification window each time an instant message is

received from a remote user and the application window is in a non-visible or non-active

15   window.